

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 EB-07 OMB-01

MC-02 PRS-01 IGA-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-02 /057 W

----- 046577

O 251603Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9631

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USCINCEUR

OASF WASHDC

OASD/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1717

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, MASS, NATO, NO

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT AND SHORAD ACQUISITION

1. SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (STEPHANSEN)
ADVISED DCM APRIL 25 THAT CABINET HAS FORMALLY SENT
TO THE STORTING GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL FOR ACQUISITION OF
72 F-16 AIRCRAFT UNDER CONDITION THAT ALL FOUR CONSORTIUM
PARTNERS PURCHASE THE F-16.

2. DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND STORTING AS A WHOLE ARE
EXPECTED TO CONSIDER AND ENDORSE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL
BY END OF MAY. IF ALL FOUR COUNTRIES AGREE TO CONSOR-
TIUM COPRODUCTION OF F-16 BY MAY 15, THEN NORWAY WILL
SIGN WITH RESERVATION PENDING STORTING APPROVAL.

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3. GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL CAN BE AMENDED AND UPDATED WHILE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY STORTING. THUS ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS BY MID-MAY COULD BE INCORPORATED IN GOVERNMENT PROPSAL.

4. IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO COMMUNICATING THIS INFORMATION TO EMBASSY, STEPHANSEN RECEIVED OPTIMISTIC REPORTS FROM BOTH COPEHAGEN AND THE HAGUE TO THE EFFECT THOSE COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE "FAVORABLE" DECISION. ONLY UNCERTAIN ELEMENT IS NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT TO BE ACQUIRED.

5. IN SEPARATE DECISION CABINET ALSO SENT TO STORTING APRIL 25 GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL FOR NORWEGIAN ACQUISITION (INCLUDING FUNDING) OF US VERSION OF ROLAND II SHORAD SYSTEM. LATER ON APRIL 25, DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCE CALLED TO REPORT THAT FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE HAD JUST MADE STRONG DEMARCHE AT MOD ADVISING NORWEGIANS THAT THE AMERICANS HAD NO RIGHT AT ALL TO SELL ROLAND TO ANYONE. ACTION REQUESTED: MOD SOURCE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY CLARIFICATION OF THIS ISSUE THAT US COULD PROVIDE.

6. CABINET DECISIONS ON F-16 AND ROLAND II CARRIED IN AFTERNOON EDITIONS OF OSLO PRESS APRIL 25.

7. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UNCLASSIFIED CABLE FROM DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTERVOLL TO HIS DUTCH, DANISH AND BELGIAM COUNTERPARTS ANNOUNCING NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT DECISION ON F-16:

BEGIN TEXT

PERSONAL FOR THE MINISTERS (SEC) OF DEFENSE FROM MINISTER ALV JAKOB FOSTERVOLL.

COMBAT AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT

THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT IS TODAY SUBMITTING A FORMAL PROPOSAL TO THE STORTING ABOUT COOPERATION WITH BELGIUM, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS AND THE USA ABOUT THE COMMON PURCHASE OF THE COMBAT AIRCRAFT F-16 IN THE NUMBER (72) AND WITHIN THE TIME SCHEDULE FOR DELIVERY PROPOSED IN THE COMMON DOCUMENTS WIHTIN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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4-COUNTRY CONSORTIUM PLAN.

THE PROPOSAL TO THE STORING IS CONTINGENT ON A FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRY COMMON SOLUTION TOGETHER WITH THE USA. IF THIS PRECONDITION IS NOT FULFILLED I WOULD ASK TO BE INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE STORTING WILL APPROVE THE PROPOSAL BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS IN JUNE -- THE PROPOSAL BEING PUT FORWARD WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT FOR PROPOSALS TO BE DEALT WITH THIS SPRING.

IF THE STORTING HAS NOT APPROVED THE PROPOSAL WITHIN 15
MAY I WILL HAVE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENTS CONDI-
TIONAL TO THE SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF THE STORTING. END TEXT
BYRNE

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Concepts: PROCUREMENT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT
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Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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